

July 24, 2017

The Common Council met with Mayor William McKean for a regular meeting on Monday, July 24, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall according to the posted notice. Councilmen Gregg Sprunger, Curtis Wurster, Ron Dull, Mark Wynn and Philip Provost were present, along with Attorney Dave Baumgartner and Clerk-Treasurer Gwen Maller.

Councilman Gregg Sprunger opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and Mayor McKean gave the invocation.

Minutes

On a motion by Mark Wynn and a second by Phil Provost, the minutes of the July 10, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Claims

On a motion by Gregg Sprunger and a second by Curtis Wurster, the claims were unanimously approved for payment.

WWTP request for a Trailer Mounted Sewer Jetter

At the July 19th Board of Works meeting, Wastewater Superintendent Terry Kongar requested approval to go on the open market to get pricing for a trailer mounted sewer jetter. The board unanimously approved his request and asked that he bring that information to the Council at this meeting for their consideration. Both Terry and WWTP Assistant Superintendent Brandon Alberson came before Council for their approval to purchase the unit from AquaBlast in Decatur at a cost of \$ 15,357.00. Terry stated that the jetter would be used for the pipes in the SAGR system that need cleaned out because with the efficiency of the SAGR system, algae is building up in the outlet pipes. The vacor truck is too large to get on the pond rim and in the past the hose got stuck when they tried to use it. Terry also said that the trailer jetter would be used in areas like the Stuckistrasse addition where the sewer lines run in easements behind homes. Small catch basin lines could also be cleaned out with the trailer jetter. Terry informed the Council that they had been looking online for the equipment, but for about the same amount of money AquaBlast can build a unit according to their specifications. Terry added that he felt purchasing local would be a benefit for any repair and maintenance issues. Clerk-Treasurer Maller stated that the money would come from the Sewage Depreciation Fund. Ron Dull made a motion to approve the request to purchase a trailer mounted sewer jetter from AquaBlast for \$15,357.00. Phil Provost made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Ordinance #692 Regarding the Authorization and Regulation of Use of Golf Carts and Off-Road Vehicles on the Streets and Alleys of the City of Berne Indiana.

Ordinance #692 was presented to Council for its final reading. The only change that was made from when it was introduced was section 70.83. It now has the same operator qualifications as the last two paragraphs in section 70.70. This ordinance amends and restates chapter 70 sections 70.70 through 70.83 of the Berne City Code including provisions regarding the authorization and regulation of use of golf carts and off-road vehicles on the streets and alleys of the City of Berne. Curtis Wurster made a motion to adopt Ordinance #692 on its final reading by short title. Ron Dull made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Ordinance #694 Fixing Salaries, Compensation and Benefit Programs For 2018 Of All Appointed Officers and Employees of The City of Berne And Establishing Clothing Allowances for The Police Department, Police Reserves and Fire Department

Ordinance #694 was presented to Council for its final reading. This ordinance fixes the salaries, compensation and benefit programs for 2018 of all appointed officers and employees of the City of Berne and establishes clothing allowances for the police department, police reserves and fire department. Gregg Sprunger made a motion to adopt Ordinance #694 on its final reading by short title. Mark Wynn made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Ordinance #695 Fixing Salaries and Benefit Programs For 2018 of All Elected Officials of The City of Berne

Ordinance #695 was presented to Council for its final reading. This ordinance fixes the salaries and benefit programs for 2018 for all elected officials of the City of Berne. Ron Dull made a motion to adopt ordinance #695 on its final reading by short title. Curtis Wurster made the second and the motion was unanimously passed.

Mayor Comments

Mayor McKean reported that it was discussed at the Board of Works meeting about a sticker citizens of Berne could purchase for their front doors that would inform door to door solicitors that they do not wish to be bothered. It would be like the “no call list”. Ordinance 83 pertains to peddlers, hawkers and itinerant merchants and would need to be amended to allow for the stickers to be enforced. The solicitors currently get a permit from the chief of police and that would not change. It was asked if it was a problem and Mayor McKean stated that he didn’t think there were any complaints. No official action was taken.

Mayor McKean reported that the compost pad is almost completed now that the work at the WWTP is completed.

He also reported that all the dirt has been hauled in and leveled at the old Dunbar site and grass will be planted in the fall.

Councilman Comments

Councilman Phil Provost stated that he along with other citizens that have talked with him would like to look at the problem of horse manure on City streets. He stated that he knows implementation and enforcement must come from the County, but maybe Berne needs to take the lead on this issue. Mayor McKean responded that he has wanted the Commissioners of our county as well as the surrounding five counties to require diapers for horses so that it would lessen the economic impact on the community. Mark Wynn stated that he hears a lot of talk at the County level and we can’t let the threat of a boycott by any one group keep us inactive. Caution would need to be taken concerning an ordinance so as not to target any segment of the population. It was also noted that Berne alone couldn’t have a horse diaper policy but this would need to be county wide to be effective. Phil also stated that we need to voice some sort of opposition to the current situation of horses defecating on city streets because this is about protecting public property and the quality of life.

There being no other business to come before the Council and upon a motion duly made to adjourn by Phil Provost and seconded by Curtis Wurster, adjournment followed.

William F. McKean, Mayor

ATTEST:

Gwen Maller, Clerk-Treasurer